

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
2/4 St. Thomas's Square,
C H O R L E Y.

March, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1949.

Nothing has occurred in the health of the area in the year under review to warrant much comment.

There has, again, been no untoward mortality during the year, the total death rate having in fact, fallen :-

1947 - 13.7
1948 - 13.9
1949 - 10.9

Corroborating my previous remarks re the fluctuation in rates manifested by small numbers in the Infant Mortality Rate, which this year has fallen to 13 as against last year's 79, for a difference of 4 individual deaths.

It is gratifying to note the tremendous increase in general sanitary supervision which your Sanitary Inspector has found himself able to undertake. The Sanitary Inspector's summary figures are worth comparing with last year's. This must have entailed much arduous work for him and I should not like an appreciation to be overlooked.

I wish to thank you again, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen, for your kind consideration; and my gratitude is again expressed to your Clerk and your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for their immense assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

R. C. GUBBINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

The Chairman and Members,
Adlington Urban District Council,
ADLINGTON.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ADLINGTON

VITAL STATISTICS 1949

Area	...	...	...	1062 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid 1949)	...	...	...	4000
Number of inhabited houses (Rate-book)	...	...	...	1224
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£17,754.
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£70.

Births

	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births -legitimate	42	34	76	Birth Rate (per 1000 pop.) = 20.0
illegitimate	4	-	4	
Total	46	34	80	
Still Births	3	1	4	Rate per 1000 Live & Still Births = 48.

Deaths

Male	Female	Total	Death-Rate (per 1000 pop.)
21	22	43	= 10.8

Death from Puerperal causes	...	...	nil
Maternal mortality	...	...	nil
Death of infants under one year	...	Male - 1) Female - 0)	Total 1
All infants per 1000 live births (i.e. Infant Mortality Rate)	...	...	13
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	13
Illegitimate do. illegitimate do.	...	...	nil
Death from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	7
Death from Measles	...	...	nil
Death from Whooping Cough	...	...	nil
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	nil

Causes of Death

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis	1	1
Cancer	3	4
"Stroke"	-	1
Heart Disease	12	9
Other Circulatory Diseases.	1	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	2
Digestive Diseases	1	1
Diabetes	1	-
Suicide	-	2
Premature Birth	1	-
All other causes	-	1
	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:- R.C.Gubbins, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time):- Robert Hilton, R.S.I. (Surveyor).

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological Department, Wigan Royal Victoria Infirmary.
Public Health Laboratory, Manchester University.

Ambulance Facilities

Provided by Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service
(Chorley Depot) - Telephone Chorley 2744.

Nursing in the Home.

There is one "District Nurse" practising in the area. She is Nurse Holden, 6 Rivington Avenue, Adlington.

Treatment Clinics.

All administered by the Lancashire County Council and situate in Chorley at either 20 St. Thomas's Road, or 2-4 St. Thomas's Square.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. See next section.

School Clinics.

The "Minor Ailment Clinic" is held at 20, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley, each Thursday at 10.a.m.

Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley, and attended by Practitioners of Specialist status. Attendance is by appointment via School Medical Staff.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The County Dispensary, 34 St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
The County Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. Villiers) attends each Tuesday at 10.a.m. This Clinic is also used as a consultant clinic for chest conditions other than tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease Clinics.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary and Bolton Infirmary.

Hospital Facilities.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley & District Hospital, Wigan Victoria Infirmary and Bolton Royal Infirmary.

For Infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Tuberculosis - Sanatorium (50 beds) at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital at Finnington.

All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These Services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is one salaried Midwife, employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in the area :- Miss L. J. Woodall, 27 The Avenue, Fair View, Adlington. Telephone No.325.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The large majority of the expectant mothers in the area attend the ante-natal clinic at 2/4 St. Thomas's Square, Chorley, and avail themselves of the excellent facilities provided by the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Service. These Clinics are held on Mondays (at 2.0.p.m.) and Thursdays (9-12 noon) and are attended on the latter day by Mr. D. C. Wiseman, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., who also attends in a consultant capacity at the Chorley and District Hospital and the Preston Royal Infirmary.



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Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:-

Chorley and District Hospital	...	20 beds.
Eaves Lane P.A. Institution	...	12 beds.

Infant Welfare Centres.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held weekly (Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Christ Church Schoolroom, Adlington, and is attended by a Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor. Since July 1948 this Medical Officer has been myself.

Health Visitor.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Mrs. Ashley, 123 Bolton Road, Chorley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the area is provided (1) from the Blackrod Reservoir (by the arrangement with the Blackrod U.D.C.) and (2) from a tapping of the conduits taking the Manchester supply from Thirlmere (by arrangement with the Manchester Corporation). The water from both sources is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. Every house in the area has a "main supply". The average daily consumption is nearly 82,000 gallons, which gives a consumption per head of 20.09 gallons daily. The supplies are interchangeable and complementary.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Only some 34 outlying properties are not connected to the sewerage system. These have septic tanks. The sewerage disposal is by precipitation and filtration over 3 coke filters, at the Sewerage Disposal Works at Harrison's Farm. The effluent is discharged into the River Douglas. The Sewage Works was modernised in 1931. Extensions of sewers were undertaken in 1949 to new properties.

Rivers and Streams.

These are inspected at intervals by the Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board. Pollution continues particularly by the local Dyeing Company. Representations have been made by this Council to the Rivers Board.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

1280 moveable ashbins are emptied weekly by the Local Authority's vehicle. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at three sites.

Cleansing of drains and closets.

Closest accommodation :-

Privy middens :-	No. of Middens	...	10
No. of Closets attached thereto		...	12
No. of Pail closets	...	...	1
No. of freshwater closets..		...	1550
No. of waste water closets		...	7

There was one conversion during the year of waste water to fresh water closet. The onus for the satisfactory maintenance of drains and closets is upon the property owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Lavatories and Urinals.

There are public lavatories at the upper and lower recreation grounds and a public urinal near the Council Offices. These conveniences are cleaned daily by the Local Authority. I mentioned in my last report that the Urinal opposite the Council Offices needed modernising.

Shops and Offices.

There are from 90 - 100 registered shops in the area. No action was taken under the Shop Acts, or Public Health Act, 1936 during the year. The County Council are responsible for the administration of the Shop Acts, your Sanitary Inspector acting as their agent. The Sanitary Inspector made 115 visits to these premises during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the area. One caravan is licensed for living purposes.

Smoke Abatement

No. of factory and works chimneys in area	...	4
No. of observations taken during the year	...	111

No legal proceedings were undertaken for excessive smoke emissions during the year, but personal contact with firms and their boiler personnel was made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Application for Bye-laws to control smoke nuisances has been made to the Ministry of Health, but such Bye-laws are unfortunately, not being sanctioned at the present time.

Disinfestation of Houses.

One house was found to be infested during 1948 and was duly disinfested by your staff.

Schools.

The water supply of the schools is from the mains. The drainage from the National (C. of E.) Schools is by trough closets. Doubtless this unsatisfactory method will be remedied when reorganisation can take place.

Other Matters.

There are in the area no Common Lodging Houses or "Houses let in lodgings" registered, no swimming baths or pools, no underground sleeping rooms, no premises where rag flock is manufactured, and no premises for the undertaking of offensive trades.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections.

No. of premises visited	...	781
No. of visits made to above	...	935
No. of nuisances discovered	...	307
No. of nuisances abated	...	286
No. of informal notices served	...	180
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	12

There were no legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances.

HOUSING

No. of new Houses erected during the year :-

(1)	By Local Authority	...	14
(2)	By other Local Authorities	...	-
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	3

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(a)	No. of houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	235
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	325
	No. of houses included under sub-head.(a) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	16
	No. of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	1
	No. of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head.) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	192

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notice.

	No. of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	175
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936:-

	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	nil
	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notice		
	(a) by Owners	...	nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	nil.

Proceedings under Public Health Act:-

	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	18.
	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices :-		
	(a) by Owners	...	12
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding

	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	6
	No. of families dwelling therein	...	8
	No. of persons dwelling therein	...	42
	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	3
	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	4
	No. of persons concerned in such cases	...	14

5. Housing Conditions.

Most of the houses in the area are of the "two up and two down" type, and lack baths or hot water supply. Like most of the sub-standard houses built some 80 years or more ago, they were well built and with reasonable maintenance are difficult to condemn as unfit for human habitation, though the lack of damp courses causes a prevailing defect of dampness.

6. Housing Schemes.

During the year the 14 houses mentioned in my last Report were completed. Plans were approved by the Ministry of Health for the erection of 16 houses on the Fair View Farm Site.

7. Overcrowding or Housing Shortage.

35 applications for houses were received, including 27 from families without separate homes. (Not all of these cases necessarily result in overcrowding, of course).

INFECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

The following number of milk traders were on the Register at 30th September 1949 :-

No. of Dairy Farmers (Cowkeepers)	...	12
Retail purveyors other than above at 31st December,		
	1949	... 30

No licences were issued by the County Council for the production of milk (in the area) under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-46 (i.e. for Tuberculin tested, "Accredited" or "Pasteurised".)

The rationing and control of Milk distribution inaugurated during the late war still continues. The central control inherent in this has made the supervision of the quality of milk extremely difficult, and calls for constant action by your servants, and in particular for co-operative action with the servants of other Local Authorities.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

In an area such as Adlington which is neither large enough to be a "scheduled area" for the heat treatment of milk, nor possesses a pasteurisation plant within its precincts, there is an especial need for supervision of the farms and dairies.

No. of inspections during the year	...	46.
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25 samples of milk were taken for analysis,	
17 were found to be satisfactory	
8 were found to be not satisfactory.	

Formal action by Local Authority	...	nil.
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There is still considerable room for improvement in the conditions that exist at the dairy farms.

(b) Meat.

The meat supply to the area is distributed from the Chorley Public Abattoirs (at present under the Ministry of Health) where there is 100% inspection of carcasses.

